



(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Kazuo OKADA

Application No.: 10/697,942

Filed: October 31, 2003

For: GAMING MACHINE

Attorney Docket No.: SHO-0019

Examiner: O. A. Deodhar

Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 8926

AMENDMENT

AND

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 31, 2007, the period for response being extended to September 30, 2007, by the Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, Group II, claims 15-33 for continued examination.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.